

and in 1837 he was appointed to the command of a surveying expedition in the Pacific, composed of H.M.S. *Sulphur* and *Starling*. After five years' work, during which he succeeded in establishing several important geographical facts, he returned to England in July 1842, and was nominated a Companion of the Bath, and shortly after received the honour of knighthood.

In 1852 Sir Edward Belcher was appointed to the command of an expedition to the Arctic Seas in search of the missing ships of Sir John Franklin. This expedition consisted of five vessels, and was separated into two divisions. The one proceeded westward to Melville Island, while Sir Edward, with two ships, ascended the Wellington Channel and wintered at its head, in an inlet which he named Northumberland Sound. In the spring of 1853 he personally explored by sledges to the north, discovered and partially surveyed North Cornwall, in latitude $77^{\circ} 30' N.$, and the strait bearing his name leading eastward into Jones' Sound; while other parties from his ships discovered and explored the north shores of Bathurst and Melville Islands, and, crossing the latter, communicated with the division of the squadron under Captain Kellett. A second winter was passed in Wellington Channel, and in the autumn of 1854, as there seemed no probability of extricating his ships, four of them were abandoned, and the crews returned over the ice to Beechey Island, whence they proceeded to England.

With this voyage Sir Edward Belcher's active professional career closed. He became a Fellow of our Society in December 1837, and died in London on March 18, 1877, in his seventy-eighth year. We are indebted to the *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society* for the information given above with regard to his many surveying voyages.

JAMES WHATMAN BOSANQUET was born on January 26, 1804. He was educated at Westminster School, and was taken into his father's banking house in 1822. He married, in 1840, the only daughter of the late Sir Nicholas Conyngham Tindal; in 1854, Frances, daughter of the late Lord John Somerset; and, in 1864, Emily, daughter of the late James Best, Esq., of Park House, Boxley.

His favourite study was Biblical Chronology. With the view of fixing dates for some of the facts mentioned in Hebrew and Assyrian history, he applied himself, with the assistance of the Astronomer Royal and Mr. Hind, to the study of early eclipses. Some of the principal dates verified by means of his researches are:

The date of the earthquake mentioned in Amos i. 1, which, it appears, took place on June 15, B.C. 763. The vision of Amos is described as taking place "two years before the earthquake," in the twenty-third year of Uzziah. This earthquake was identified by Mr. Bosanquet with an earthquake

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recorded in the Nineveh inscriptions, the record of which was discovered by Sir Henry Rawlinson. It is spoken of as one of a series of earthquakes which took place in the year of the eclipse of June, B.C. 763. The eclipse is believed to be referred to in Amos viii. 9, where it is said, "I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day."

The date of the fourteenth year of the reign of Hezekiah, which he identified as beginning in March, P.C. 690. This year was marked by an eclipse of the Sun on January 11, B.C. 689, which took place at noon-day. The eclipse Mr. Bosanquet believed was referred to in Isaiah xxxviii. 8.

The eclipse of Thales, in B.C. 585, he made use of to fix the date of the fall of Nineveh, B.C. 583, and the expulsion of the Scythians from Nineveh after their reign of twenty-eight years. The beginning of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, and, consequently, the date of the captivity, which is coincident with the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar, or B.C. 563.

Mr. Bosanquet was treasurer and took considerable interest in the establishment of the Society of Biblical Archæology. In a recent number of their publications it is mentioned that the Society was indebted to him for the payment of nearly one-half of the cost of their transactions, and that the late Mr. George Smith was first urged into publicity by his generosity.

Mr. Bosanquet was the author of several books and pamphlets, some of the more important of which are: *On the Date of the Fall of Sardis, and the Deposition of Cræsus; Assyrian and Hebrew Chronology Compared; Letter to the Right Hon. Sir George C. Lewis on the Bank Charter Act of 1844; On the Egyptian Dynasties of Manetho; On the Date of the Nativity of our Lord; Cyrus the Second; Date of the Fall of Nineveh; Chronological Remarks on the History of Esther and Ahasuerus.* Mr. Bosanquet died on December 22, 1877, at the age of 73.

JAMES SCOTT BOWERBANK was born in July 1797, in the parish of Bishopsgate, London, where his father was a rectifying distiller. He inherited a share of the business, and continued it, in conjunction with his brother, until 1847. In 1818 Dr. Bowerbank became a member of the old Mathematical Society of Spitalfields, and upon its incorporation in 1845 with the Royal Astronomical Society, he became a life member of the latter. He delivered several lectures before the Mathematical Society between the years 1822 and 1824 on Anatomy, Physiology, and Botany; and in 1831 he gave a course of lectures on Human Osteology. It is stated that he first acquired a love for natural history by studying the plants &c. growing in the river Lea, his father having rented a portion of this river in the Edmonton Marshes. His first paper, "Observations upon the Circulation of the Blood in Insects," was published in the *Entomological*